

# GAMEDAYGUIDE

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## New players, same high expectations for defense

**Corbin McGuire**  
staff writer

K-State's defense Saturday against the Missouri State Bears will feature five new defensive starters.

Senior Arthur Brown said the formula for the defense's successes a year ago will not change with the change in personnel, however.

"The same way we did it last year," Brown said. "Just prepare throughout the week, be the toughest and the best assignment sound football team on that field."

One spot that is still not finalized is at strong-side linebacker, where Justin Tuggle and Jarell Childs are competing for a starting spot.

Head coach Bill Snyder said the competition between Tuggle and Childs is close and that both will play in Saturday's game that kicks off at 6:10 p.m.

"They both bring a competitive spirit to the defense," Brown said of the two linebackers. "They are competing for a starting spot right now, but we cannot lose with either one of them out there."

The Bears, who are 0-2 all-time against the Wildcats, bring back four out of five linemen from last season and Snyder said he expects them to be vastly improved from a 2-9 record a year ago.

"If you're going to start somewhere, that's the best place," Snyder said of the Bears' returning linemen. "The talk is that they want to up-tempo their offense. They want to go fast and no-huddle to try and get as many reps in as they can offensively so that means your defense has to be awfully alert and well-conditioned at the same time."

Kierra Harris, a sophomore who played in two games last season, will lead the Bears as quarterback but junior Ashton Glaser, transfer from Missouri, will back up Harris and may receive snaps as well.

Brown said the Bears' offensive style is something the Wildcats will have to prepare for thoroughly.

"When you have an offense that takes control of the clock, that is something that you definitely have to prepare for," Brown said. "There is no telling what to expect the first game of the season, so we have to be ready for everything."

Harris threw for 70 yards, completing eight of 14 passes for one touchdown for the Bears in last season's opening game against Arkansas.

Thomas Ferguson is another new face on this year's starting Wildcat defense at the strong safety position.



Linebacker **Arthur Brown** tackles Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III on Oct. 1, 2011, in Bill Snyder Family Stadium, when K-State squeaked out a 36-35 win.

Snyder said Ferguson's strengths lie in his run defense as well as in the passing game.

"Thomas has always been in the wings, he was a backup last year and I think most if not all of our players have a great deal of respect for his competitive nature, his competitiveness, how hard he plays," Snyder said. "He just needs more and more playing time as he hasn't

been on the field quite as much as we would've liked but I'm pleased with the progress he's made."

The defensive line brings back two senior starters in Adam Davis at defensive end and Vai Lutui at the defensive tackle. Senior Meshak Williams will start at the other defensive end position with senior John Sua starting at the final defensive tackle spot.

Snyder said he does not like how slowly the defensive line is progressing. The two-deep lineup may take a few weeks to establish, he said.

"It indeed is a slow process, and it is every bit a process, not with just incoming youngsters, but also with youngsters that are returning," Snyder said. "I kind of want things to happen in a heartbeat. It does

not always work that way."

Randall Evans, who will run the nickel back position for the Wildcats, said this year's defense is coming in with big expectations for the season.

"We're going out with a better mentality. We want a national title," Evans said. "That's what we want, and a Big 12 Championship, so our goals are set high."

## Tom Hayes brings experience to defensive coordinator position

**Sean Frye**  
staff writer

Two years ago, K-State had the second-worst defense in the Big 12 Conference and one of the worst in the country. The Wildcats gave up more than 441 yards of offense per game on average, and the defensive unit failed to give the Wildcats a chance to win close games more times than not.

With that, head coach Bill Snyder called upon one person to come in and try to revamp his defense. That man is Tom Hayes, a veteran in coaching circles who has been in his profession since 1977. He has coached at a variety of major colleges as well as in the NFL, and is known for piecing together stout defenses that excel in pass coverage.

Snyder's decision worked, as last year the K-State defense conjured up memories of the great late '90s and early 2000s squads that featured players such as Mark Simoneau and Terence Newman. The change was so noticeable, that after the first two weeks of the season, the Wildcats were ranked No. 1 in the country in total defense.

After spending a year as the secondary coach at K-State during last year's run to the Cotton Bowl, Snyder named Hayes the defensive coordinator after his predecessor, Chris Cosh, left for the same position at South Florida. Now Hayes is ready for yet another new challenge as he now holds the reins to the Wildcats' defense.

"I was only here a year, and so the biggest difference is I am responsible for a lot more organizational things as well as the oversight of the staff and players," Hayes said. "But I have had several of these jobs, so this is nothing new to me."

One of the factors in Hayes' promotion this offseason, according to Snyder, is Hayes' knowledge and experience with the game.

"It is the fact that he has had the experience on an ongoing basis, which I think is significant," Snyder said. "And he certainly demands a respect from his players because of his knowledge of defensive football and of football in general."

Hayes' ties with K-State and with Snyder, however, run past last season. Hayes' daughter Sarah graduated from K-State. Hayes was also on the staff at

Iowa the year prior to Snyder's arrival there in 1979, where Snyder spent 10 years as the offensive coordinator before taking the head job at K-State.

"I actually was on the staff previous to Hayden Fry going to Iowa," Hayes said. "I was leaving as he was coming to Iowa, my alma mater. I coached there for two years, then I left and went to the west coast for 10 years at UCLA. He came in with Hayden at Iowa and did a great job there. Then you know the story, he gets this job and the Big Ten was glad to get rid of coach Snyder, because he was wearing them out doing a great job with their offense."

As time progressed, Hayes held jobs at UCLA, Texas A&M and Oklahoma and eventually found himself as the defensive backs coach for the Washington Redskins, where he mentored NFL hall of fame cornerback Darrell Green, known as one of the fastest players in NFL history.

Hayes' extensive career in coaching college and professional pass coverage units is one of the main reasons that K-State standout cornerback Nigel Malone has put a lot of his trust into Hayes this season.

"He knows what he's talking about so I try to take all of the advice that he gives me, and I try to pick his brain as much as I can," Malone said. "He's been there, he's done that before, so I trust him and the things that he's out there telling me."

Hayes sees Malone as a model corner that he wants to build his defense around.

"Nigel is a very instinctive football player," Hayes said. "He just knows how to play the game. He's been doing it long enough. Certainly at the community college level in San Francisco City, he was very good there and then we brought him here, and he worked his way into this thing and did a great job last year."

One of the biggest things Snyder harped on this offseason is improving the pass coverage this year.

"Most people would look at statistics and say we need to improve against the pass, which we do," Snyder said at K-State media day on Aug. 3.

Hayes' plan to accomplish that goal starts with recruiting.

"The No. 1 thing for a corner would be speed," Hayes said. "The guys you got to line up against in this league, in the Big 12, they all can fly on offense.



Linebacker **Tre Walker** drives his shoulder into Iowa State quarterback Jared Barnett on Dec. 3, 2011, in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The Wildcats won 30-23.

You've got to go get the right personnel. We've got to keep evaluating well and recruiting well. On defense, we got to keep scouring the country, keep pouring over videotape to find the very best players for K-State."

Besides improvements in the pass coverage though, Hayes doesn't believe that there will be many noticeable changes from last season under Cosh to this season.

"I wouldn't anticipate there's going to be a whole lot of differences," Snyder said. "We came here together as a group together here last year as coaches, and we put together a plan to do what we were going to do, and we did it. We won 10 games, so why change a whole lot?"

For this year though, the top priority, as it often is with Snyder-coached teams, is the desire to work hard.

And Hayes believes that his unit is prepared for the challenges that the season will present.

"This defense is confident defense from last year," Hayes said. "They're a hardworking group, they like to work. That's a big part of the battle. If you've got guys that are willing to do things and do them to their very best and work hard, you're going to get something done in a lot of cases."



# Games to Watch: A potential upset in week one?

## Penn State vs. Ohio



The post-Paterno era begins as Penn State plays host to the Ohio Bobcats on Saturday. The Nittany Lions lost a lot of big talent as result of the sanctions, including running back Silas Redd to the University of Southern California and wide receiver Justin Brown, who transferred to Oklahoma. One guy returning for the Nittany Lions is quarterback Matt McGloin, and he will be counted upon to help Penn State try and push forward through the tough off-season. However, the Bobcats of Ohio will present a challenge.

Despite losing their top rusher and receiver, the Bobcats return All-MAC quarterback Tyler Tettleton, who finished the year with 3,658 total yards from scrimmage, and 38 touchdowns. Tettleton has the ability to hurt you both with his arm and his legs, and will force the Nittany Lions defense to be on its toes.

Saturday's game figures to be a very emotional day in Happy Valley, and Penn State must keep these emotions in check as Ohio is more than capable of pulling the upset.

## Southern Mississippi at Nebraska



The third season for quarterback Taylor Martinez is a huge one in Lincoln, where expectations are for the Cornhuskers to make a run at a Rose Bowl berth. With Martinez and running back Rex Burkhead back, the Cornhuskers have one of the top rushing attacks in the country, as the two combined for 2,200 yards and 24 touchdowns. The Eagles will load the box to slow down the rushing attack, and use their team speed to change the pace of the game.

Southern Mississippi also features a strong rushing attack, led by a trio of backs in Tracy Lampley, Kendrick Hardy and Jeremy Hester. Their job will be to run the ball and control the clock, keeping the Nebraska rushing attack on the sidelines.

## Auburn vs. Clemson



These two teams have played the past two years, with the home team prevailing in both games. This game will be in the Georgia Dome, which may not be a good thing, as Auburn will have to keep up with Clemson's speed, despite the absence of All-American Sammy Watkins.

Watkins, a sophomore, is suspended for two games after being arrested for drug possession. Even without Watkins, Clemson has an explosive offense led by quarterback Tajh Boyd.

In his first season starting, Boyd finished with 3,828 yards and 33 touchdowns. Boyd does a good job of spreading the defense out, and if he limits his turnovers, he has a chance to sneak into Heisman trophy talks.

Auburn will start sophomore Kiehl Frazier, who will be making his first career start as a quarterback. With his inexperience, look for the Clemson Tigers to really get after the quarterback and try to force turnovers.

## Alabama vs. Michigan



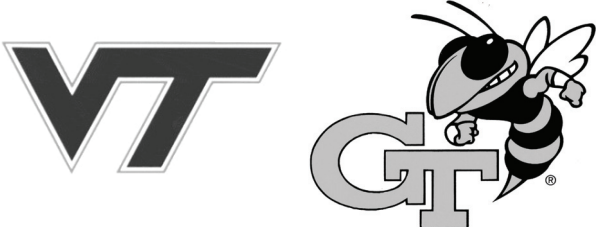
The biggest game of the week pits the No.2 Crimson Tide against the No. 8 Wolverines of Michigan in Dallas. The defending national champions Alabama lost a lot of players from last year's team, but bring back an experienced quarterback in A.J. McCarron.

Just like as the case was with Greg McElroy when Alabama won the title in 2010, McCarron was counted on last year just to run the offense and not make mistakes. With workhorse running back Trent Richardson on to the pros, McCarron will be counted on more this year to win his team games and make big plays. He will need to perform at a high level as the quarterback on the other side of the field can take over a game fast.

Denard Robinson, gives the Wolverines the most explosive player in the country. He can take a broken play and turn it into a touchdown from anywhere on the floor. Look for the Crimson Tide to have a spy on him at all times and force him to pass the ball as much as possible.

Robinson will make big plays, as he is just too good not to, but Michigan does not play against the type of animal they will face in Alabama, and look for the Crimson Tide to win going away.

## Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech



When you only have a week to plan for the Georgia Tech triple-option offense, it can be extremely difficult to stop. However, give Hokies' defensive coordinator Bud Foster a summer to prepare for it, and there is a good chance that he will come up with a master plan.

Very similar to "Snyder Ball" here at K-State, Virginia Tech has their own style, known as "Beamer Ball." The Hokies are extremely opportunistic and make big plays with their defense and special teams. Unlike the past few years, though, the Hokies have a very good offense, led by quarterback Logan Thomas.

Thomas is huge at 6 feet 6 inches and 260 pounds, and can both throw and run the ball. He is as important to the Hokies' success as any player in the country is to his team's performance. He has to limit his turnovers, and not give the Yellow Jackets field possession.

The Yellow Jackets will be led by quarterback Tevin Washington, who is great at running the option. However, it has been his inability to pass the ball that has hurt them. He must become more accurate if Georgia Tech will contend in the ACC.

The Hokies are going to go after Washington and load the box with eight, maybe nine guys. Look for them to force a couple Georgia Tech turnovers and win the game by double digits.

-compiled by Mark Kern

# Pick 'Em



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# Zetmeir’s Heisman Watch

John Zetmeir  
staff writer

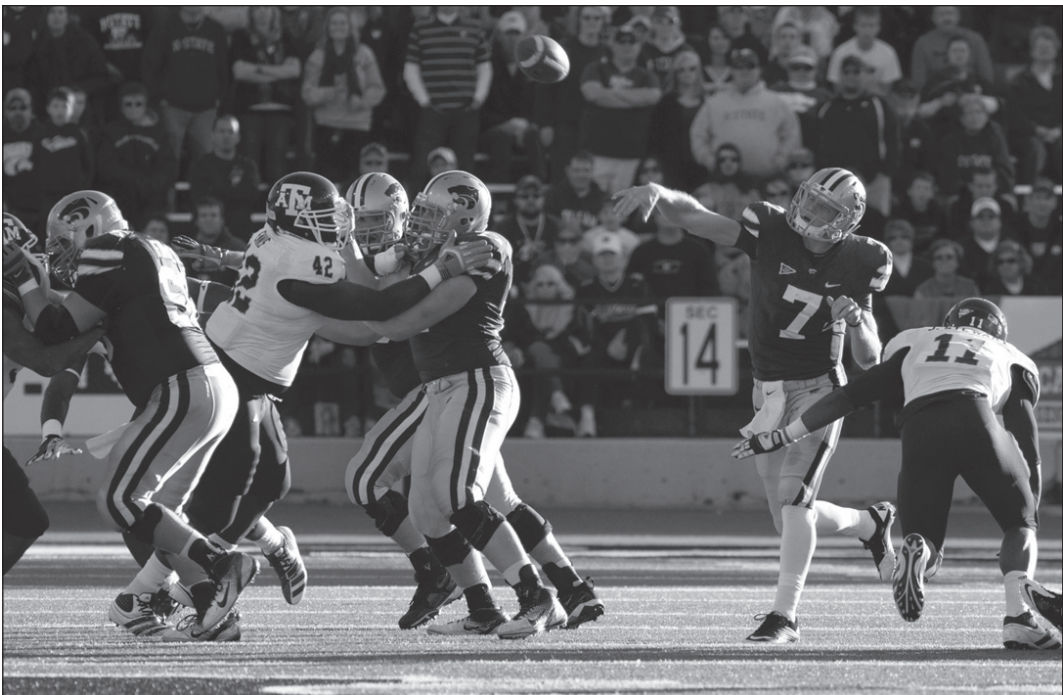
Every year the Heisman Trophy is given to the most outstanding player in college football. Winning the Heisman trophy is a lot more than just earning silverware for the shelf, it is about being inducted into one of the most prestigious fraternities in all of sports and having your name go down in the history of college football. With the start of the 2012-13 season right around the corner, here are some big names around the country to keep an eye on.

The University of Southern California’s senior quarterback Matt Barkley announced this off-season that he would be returning to USC in hopes of leading the Trojans to a national title. This is the first season that USC is eligible for a bowl after serving a two-year bowl ban that the NCAA handed the university in 2010. In his junior season, Barkley lead the Trojans to a 10-2 record while passing for 3,528 yards, 39 touchdowns passes and added two rushing touchdowns.

Similar to Barkley, Wisconsin’s senior running back Montee Ball also decided to forego the 2012 NFL draft, and decided to return for his senior season. In 2012, Ball finished fourth in the Heisman voting last year by helping the Badgers to a Rose Bowl berth. Ball did a lot of the Badgers’ dirty work in the 2011-12 season by rushing for 1,923 yards with 33 touchdowns, while also adding over 300 yards receiving and six touchdowns. With the loss of Russell Wilson to the NFL, look for Ball to take on an even heavier load for the Badgers this season.

Michigan’s senior quarterback Denard Robinson is next on our list. Robinson is considered one of the most electrifying players in all of college football. In the 2011 season, Robinson tormented defenses with his dual-threat quarterbacking style.

With 2,173 yards and 20 touchdowns through the air and 1,176



Quarterback Collin Klein releases the ball right before taking a hit on Nov. 11, 2011, in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground, Robinson led Michigan to a 10-2 season, capped off with a Sugar Bowl victory over Virginia Tech. Robinson will look to continue his success in the maize and blue, but with the loss of his big target Junior Hemingway to the NFL, Robinson will have to look for a new, big-name target in 2012.

Staying on the topic of dual-threat quarterbacks, K-State senior Collin Klein rounds out our list. Klein burst onto the scene in 2011 by leading the Wildcats to a 10-3 record and a Cotton Bowl appearance where they lost to the University of Arkansas. In his junior season, Klein passed for 1,918 yards and 13 touchdowns. However, Klein became famous for what he did on the ground. Klein rushed for 1,141 yards and 27 touchdowns. Klein finished second in the nation and first in the Big 12 Conference for rushing touchdowns.



USC quarterback Matt Barkley is considered the top Heisman Trophy contender for this season.

## By the Numbers

- 24 - The point total that the Bears had against K-State in 2010
- 14 - The point total that the Bears had in two games against FBS teams last year

In 2010, when K-State had a less than stellar defensive unit, allowed the Bears to score 24 points on them. The Wildcats won the game 48-24, but the Wildcats looked sluggish throughout the game. Since then, though, the Wildcats have showed vast improvement as they went on last year’s run of 10 wins and a Cotton Bowl berth.

- 1998 - The last time the Bears had a 100-yard rusher against an FBS team

This year, the Bears feature a fast-paced offense that leans heavily on the pass, so expect the streak of 13 years since the Bears had a player gain 100 yards on the ground to extend to 14. The last time the Bears had a 100-yard rusher against an FBS opponent was at Arkansas State, when Maurice Daniels broke off a 162-yard performance. This year’s starting running back for the Bears is Vernon Scott, who only totaled 165 rushing yards all of last season.

- 3 - The number of times K-State quarterback Collin Klein has been named a team captain

Klein, who is entering his senior season this year with a lot of hype, has been named a captain by Snyder for the third time in his career. This is the first time in K-State football history, which spans 117 years, that a player has been made a three-time captain. Klein, who also got married during the offseason, is expected to be the catalyst for the Wildcats’ offense this season.

- 100 - The drop in the average number of rushing yards per game that K-State’s opponents gained between 2010 and 2011

Last year, the Wildcats revamped their defensive efforts, and after the first two weeks of the season, they were ranked as the top defense in the country. And a lot of their improvement was in their run defense. Linebackers Arthur Brown and Tre Walker swarmed to rushers and limited opponents’ ability to run the ball.

- 18 - The number of K-State players in the NFL

At press time, K-State had 18 of its alumni currently listed on NFL rosters. The rookies this year include Bryce Brown, Tysyn Hartman, and Emmanuel Lamur. The most tenured NFL veteran who put on the Wildcat jersey in his college days is Rock Cartwright, a running back for the San Francisco 49ers who is in his 11th year in the league.

Compiled by Sean Frye

## Scouting Missouri State: ‘no telling what to expect’

Sean Frye  
staff writer

Last season was a long one for the Missouri State Bears, as the team went 2-9 on the season, only winning against Western Illinois and Youngstown State on the road. In the Bears’ two games against FBS opponents, the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Oregon Ducks outscored the Bears 107-14 combined. Against Eastern Kentucky, the FCS team that nearly beat K-State last year, the Colonels beat the Bears by four points.

This season presents a new sense of optimism, as the Bears have plenty of returning players and are looking to make a run at the Missouri Valley Football Conference title. The Bears’ starting quarterback, Kierra Harris, is expected to open the season with the starting job. Last year’s starter, Trevor Wooden was dismissed from the team for a violation of team rules.

Wooden was also suspended for last year’s season opener against Arkansas.

Harris says his experience against Arkansas, as well as playing time against Oregon last year, has helped him prepare for Saturday’s game against K-State.

“I was able to go up against Arkansas and Oregon last year, so I am confident in my abilities,” Harris said. “Kansas State is a great team, but I am ready to get back on the field.”

The Bears’ offense features an up-tempo pace similar to Baylor and Oklahoma State. The Bears are expected to mainly lineup in a four-wide set and go no-huddle.

“When you have an offense that takes control of the clock, that is something that you definitely have to prepare for,” said K-State linebacker Arthur Brown. “There is no telling what to expect the first game of the

season, so we have to be ready for everything.”

Defensively, Andrew Beisel leads the Bears. He was nominated to preseason All-MVC honorable mention team this offseason, and he was on the All-Newcomer team last year. Last year, he became the first freshman in school history to lead the team in tackles.

Special teams is arguably the Bears’ biggest weakness. They return a kicker that only made 50 percent of his kicks last year, and also missed two kicks inside of 30 yards. They also failed to score a touchdown off a kick or punt return, but gave up five.

Last year, the Wildcats almost

gave up a loss to Eastern Kentucky. And this year, the Bears will look to come into Manhattan and turn some heads themselves. But K-State has plans to not make the same mistakes they did last year.

“One of the things that we have been talking about this season is starting fast. We have not even really focused on Eastern Kentucky,” said Chris Harper, K-State senior receiver. “It is not really our focus because Missouri State is a totally different team. That is what we have been focusing on, just focusing on Missouri State and not Eastern Kentucky. We know that they are going to be a better team than what people give them credit for.”

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# MATCHING UP

## Run defense vs. run offense

Last season, the run defense was the staple of the Wildcats' defensive unit. And expect new defensive coordinator Tom Hayes to come out and make a statement early whenever the Bears attempt to run the ball. The best run-stoppers for the Wildcats are linebackers Arthur Brown and Tre Walker, both of whom have excellent instincts and a quick speed that allows them to bear down on ball carriers.

The history also does not bode well for the Bears when it comes to running the ball against FBS teams. The last time a Bears player rushed for 100 yards against an FBS team was in 1998, when Maurice Daniels ran for 162 yards against Arkansas State. Their starting running back this year, Vernon Scott, only totaled 165 yards on the ground and was outgained by three of his teammates last year.



ADVANTAGE: K-STATE

## Pass defense vs. pass offense

In the secondary, the Wildcats are led by Nigel Malone, one of the nation's top cornerbacks who has been nominated for numerous preseason watch lists. Safety Ty Zimmerman, a junior who will be in his third year at the starting role, also provides quality pass coverage for the Wildcats. As for the Bears, their starting quarterback is expected to be Kierra Harris for the second straight season. Ashton Glaser, a transfer from Missouri who arrived at Missouri State last month, is also expected to see the field at some point. Harris had an impressive game against Arkansas last year when he went 8-for-14 for 70 yards and touchdown. But his receiving core lacks depth this year.



ADVANTAGE: K-STATE

## Special teams

When it comes to special teams, Bill Snyder is the master. His teams are famous for being sound on all things special teams, and this year is expected to be no exception. Kicker Anthony Cantele is one of the more consistent kickers in the country, and he has a knack for making clutch field goals, as was displayed against Baylor and Texas A&M last year.

Kick returner Tyler Lockett is also on a plethora of preseason watch lists for his ability to break open kick and punt returns, and he has recovered from his season-ending kidney laceration nicely over the offseason.

The Bears failed to score a touchdown on special teams last year, while they allowed five of their opponents to. Their kicker Austin Witmer was only 5-of-10 in field goal attempts, including two misses inside of 30 yards.



ADVANTAGE: K-STATE

## Pass offense vs. pass defense

The Wildcats have one of the Big 12 Conference's best quarterbacks in Collin Klein. However, his heralded mechanics and passing attack, which has supposedly improved dramatically over the summer, have yet to be debuted under the lights. But K-State also has an incredibly deep receiving core with Chris Harper, Tra- maine Thompson, Tyler Lockett and Curry Sexton.

Last year, the Bears gave up 239.7 yards passing per game, and that was on an FCS schedule. They also allowed 27 passing touchdowns over the course of the season. Making things worse is that they lost their top defensive back Jimmie Strong, who intercepted two balls last year.



ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



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Sat 11:00 am - 6:00 pm